

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT**

THE "EYE"

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2002

SHOPPING WITH SAFETY

The beginning of the school year and the upcoming holidays increase the likelihood that you may be out shopping. Think about your surroundings as you go to a shopping area. Park your car in a well lit area. Do not leave valuable items visible in your vehicle—secure them in an unseen area. Be sure to close windows and lock doors when you leave.

While shopping, avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Position your purse close to your body, not dangling from the strap. Wallets are safer being carried inside a front pocket than in a back pocket. Avoid having to carry too many packages at once so you are not impeding your ability to move or react. When you return to your vehicle take a moment to look it over and make sure everything looks alright. Before you open any door glance into the back seat area to make sure no one is hiding there. If you feel your car has been broken into, or there is a suspicious person nearby, turn around and go back into a business so you can call the police. Wait for the police officer to arrive before you return to the vehicle.

Staying alert to what is happening around you is one of the best ways to avoid becoming a victim.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

If you are traveling over the next few months take the time to plan ahead and incorporate some crime prevention ideas. When traveling by vehicle make sure it is in good enough condition to withstand any circumstances you may encounter. Make sure you have filled up with fuel, checked tire tread and inflation, and engine fluids (especially coolant and oil). Stock your car with blankets, food, a shovel or scoop, and any other cold weather gear in case you are stuck in a winter storm.

If you are traveling by plane arrive at the airport early enough to allow sufficient time to get through baggage and security checks. Have your photo ID and boarding passes ready as you approach your gate. Be prepared to have any carry-ons, luggage, coats, purses, and electronic equipment scanned. Do not have gift wrapped carry-ons because they will be opened during the screening process. Do not carry anything construed as a sharp edged instrument. This includes any type of knife, scissors, nail file, corkscrew, or even nail clippers that have a file blade attached. Syringes will require documented proof of medical need. Keep control of all your own property and do not carry anything for anyone you do not know or who is not traveling with you. While at the airport remember to stay calm, be patient and be aware of your surroundings.

As you are planning to travel do not forget to plan for the security of your home while you are away. Alert a neighbor, friend, or family member to check your house during the time you are gone. Have your mail and newspaper stopped so there is not an accumulation at your door. Set some lights and a radio or TV on an automatic timer to make it appear that someone may be home. Do a check around your house before leaving to make sure that doors and windows are closed and locked.

You will relax and enjoy your trip more knowing that you have planned ahead for all of these things.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR CHARITABLE GIVING



Coinciding with the upcoming holidays is an increase of requests for charitable contributions. There are more groups, all representing different interests asking for your money. These requests come from solicitors at your door, on your phone, and at the mall or street corner. Exercise some caution when dealing with these requests. Deal only with organizations you are familiar with. Do not let yourself be pressured; take the time to look over any information and try to verify that it is a reputable organization. You have a right to know how much of your donation would go to the charitable cause and how much would go the organization itself. You also have a right to know if the solicitor is a volunteer or a professional. Legitimate organizations will answer your questions and provide you any information requested.

Most of us would like to help where there is an actual need. However, there are some people who will take advantage of these situations for their own personal greed. We need to do our best to avoid giving those people anything.

If you have a question about a specific organization you may be able to get information from:

Attorney General Consumer Protection— 471-2682

or

Better Business Bureau—

436-2345



CAN WE SNARE YOU IN OUR WEB?

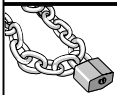
The Lincoln Police Department maintains a website you can access at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police.

Features included in the website are:

- Department information and services
- Recruiting information (with on-line registration)
- Current arrest warrants by name
- Stolen items
- Crime listing by area
- Crime listing with map navigation
- Interactive crime map
- Accident reports are available in a TIFF format

There are links to other city sites and to the Nebraska State Patrol's Registered Sex Offender Notification. The newest feature on the web-site allows you to obtain a Public Record Criminal History Report. There is a \$10.00 fee for this service that can be charged to your VISA or MasterCard account. This could be especially convenient for persons involved in hiring, leasing, and renting processes.

Please take the time to visit our website, roam around "inside" our police department and get to know us better.



Commercial Storage Unit Burglaries

There has been an increase in the number of storage unit burglaries throughout Lincoln during the summer months. If you are someone who rents space from a local commercial storage business we encourage you to check on the security of your garage. Sometimes these burglaries are not discovered for months because the storage units are not visited very often.

The Lincoln Police Department suggests that storage unit renters check on their garages periodically throughout the year. An inventory of the contents stored at that site should be maintained and the record kept at home. Property should be marked with an identifier— either your name or an ID number. You should **not** use your Social Security Number. An "Operation ID" number can be obtained through the Lincoln Police Crime Prevention Group by calling 441-7261. The "Operation ID" number is identifiable throughout the U.S. and can be traced back to your name. Engraving this number on your property would allow it to be specifically identified when it was recovered after having been stolen or lost.

When you inspect your storage unit you should check for security weaknesses. If there is an overhead door, determine if the door still moves properly within its track system. Make sure that there is not enough loose play in the door that it can be moved part way up without having been unlocked. Check the bolt, latch, and lock mechanisms to be sure they are in good working condition. Also consider using a higher security padlock. Some newer padlocks are designed with a shrouded shackle that prevents anyone from using a bolt cutter to cut it off from the latch.

Periodic inspection and maintenance will help to prevent burglaries at these commercial sites.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Traveling to and from school, sporting events, Halloween trick or treating, and holiday shopping will all expose your children to a variety of different environments. Be sure to pay particular attention to your children during these times. Close supervision is the best way to keep your children safe.

If your children are traveling without you try to have them use the "buddy system" - such as walking to school with a group of friends. Have them use a preplanned route that you have practiced with them. If a stranger or strange car approaches them teach them to run away in the opposite direction. Tell your child to talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

On Halloween either accompany your child or have them go with a group of responsible friends. Encourage them to wear a costume that does not obstruct their vision and is visible at night. Remind them to bring all of their candy home so that an adult can inspect it before it is eaten. Staying in the neighborhood you are familiar with and going to houses of people you know is the best way to "trick or treat".

While shopping with your children, keep an eye on them at all times. Teach them that if they are separated from you they should seek out a mother (a woman who has other small children with her) for help. It is more likely that another mother will stay with and help a lost child. Police officers, security guards, and even store clerks are not always easy to find or may not be immediately available to help. Having prearranged meeting places and times is also a good idea.

Supervision of, and communication with, your children is most important. Talk to them often about staying safe in different situations. Most of all, encourage them to tell you about anything that happens to them.



HELP!?

The LPD Crime Prevention Group gets a lot of returned mail because we have used old addresses. Please help us by keeping your **Neighborhood Watch Group** member lists up to date. Just give us a call if you have any changes to your list. 441-7261 Thanks!

The Lincoln Police Department is looking for several individuals that have three or more outstanding warrants. Some of these criminals have been "ducking" the law for up to two years. We need your help in bringing all these individuals in to face up to their responsibilities. If you see any of these individuals, or have tips on where Law Enforcement might locate them, please call **Crime Stoppers** at **475-3600**.



Jason D. Gericke W/M
DOB: 06-05-1971
6ft 0in, 170lbs
Eyes: Hazel Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
Possession Methamphetamine
Possession Controlled Substance
Theft x2
Steal Money/ Goods
Suspended Driving
Dog Running at Large
Last Known Address:
3244 "Q" St.



Renee Davison B/F
DOB: 10-17-1969
5ft 5in, 130lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
Steal Money/ Goods
Disturbing the Peace
Assault
Suspended Driving
Operating Comm Veh w/o
License
Last Known Address:
900 S. 21 St. #4



Leroy M. Hansen W/M
DOB: 11-13-1944
5ft 11in, 1240lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
Disturbing the Peace
Theft By Deception
Steal Money/ Goods
Trespassing
Last Known Address:
1732 Washington #3



INDIVIDUAL(S)
LOCATED TAKEN TO
JAIL OR WARRANTS
WERE TAKEN CARE
OF.



Warrants current as of
Oct-2002.

Pet Care & Responsibility

Kris Johnson, Education Officer for Animal Control



POOPER
SCOOPER
ZONE

Walking is good exercise for both you and your dog. Currently, Lincoln does not have a Poop Scoop law, but we do ask that owners pick up after their dogs. An easy method is to use the plastic bags your newspapers come in (or bread wrappers) to pick up the feces, then turn the bag inside out and dispose of it in a garbage can or dumpster. The law does require that dog feces be cleaned up at least every five days on the owner's property. Your neighbor will appreciate you caring for your pet's health, your property, and the neighborhood by complying with this law.

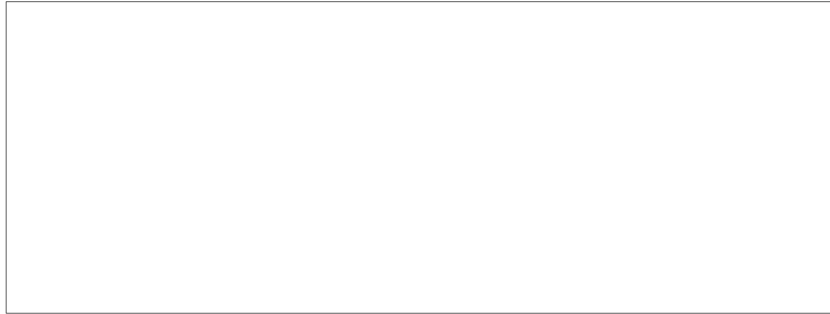
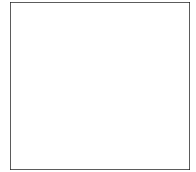
Rabies Awareness: Rabies is a viral disease usually transmitted through a bite from an infected animal. Only warm blooded mammals can carry this deadly disease. Every year there are cases reported where an animal looks or acts sick, especially in wildlife. In most cases, death will occur within a few days after the symptoms start. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system which changes the animal's behavior. Not all animals become aggressive, some may become confused or seem to be in a stupor. Protect yourself and your pets by leaving wildlife alone. Keep your dogs and cats current on their rabies vaccinations. Teach children to never pick up or touch wild animals even though some may appear friendly. Leave them alone. If you are ever bitten (skin is broken), wash the wound immediately with soap and water, then seek medical attention and call Animal Control. Although rabies exposure is rare, don't be unaware of the consequences of being infected.

Do your part to keep Lincoln a great place to live for people and animals.

***The "EYE"
Neighborhood Watch***

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT
CRIME PREVENTION
575 S. 10 ST.
LINCOLN NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

BY CAPTIAN DOUG SRB NORTHEAST TEAM



Captain Doug Srb

Neighborhood Blight... the phrase sounds as distasteful as the condition itself looks. We all know what's involved: unkempt lawns, trash or scrap piles, junk vehicles, and unpainted houses that seem to be deteriorating before our eyes. Unfortunately, Lincoln has its share of neighborhood blight and the problem appears to be on the increase in some parts of the city. Problem properties can occur anywhere and may even be tucked into the middle of an otherwise spotless neighborhood where owners/occupants tend to take pride in their homes.

As a police manager, I can tell you that a significant portion of your law enforcement resource is expended towards dealing with neighborhood blight. Some may say that this expenditure of resources detracts from time spent on "real police problems." The truth is that many of the violations associated with problem properties ARE real police problems. City ordinances governing junk or abandoned vehicles are well developed and requires law enforcement intervention. Moreover, those junk vehicles and dilapidated residences are often just the outward signs of something much more sinister occurring within. Many such locations (or neighborhoods with a higher volume of such properties) are also found to harbor drug violations, abuse/neglect situations, and more traditional criminal activity.

You, as a citizen/homeowner, can impact this neighborhood blight which so adversely affects our quality of life. Work within your neighborhoods and community organizations to sponsor "clean-up" days. Consensus and commitment among neighbors to keep an area clean is an important step. This commitment fosters peer pressure towards compliance for those less inclined to keep their properties clean and in good repair. Report chronic problem locations to the appropriate city agency. The Police, Health, and Building & Safety Departments are a few agencies that can help with enforcement. The Neighborhood Hotline **(441-6300)** is a "one stop shopping" number sponsored by the Urban Development Department where problem situations may be reported.

Working together, we can assure that Lincoln remains the clean, desirable and safe place it has always been to live in and be proud of.